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Message to the NGO meeting in Bangkok

Dear friends,

We warmly greet your initiative to organise this pre-summit meeting on the eve of the first Europe-Asia meeting. We also salute the organisers of the pre-summit for having recognised the East Timor as one of the major problems in the Europe-Asia multilateral relationship.

Already weeks before the Bangkok Summit, the Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas made statements as efforts to prevent human rights and in particular the East Timor issue to be raised by some of the European Union participants. The minister insists that "East Timor is a question of irrelevance" for the summit. Minister Alatas has also received support from some colleagues in Europe who also wants to keep East Timor off the agenda of the Summit.

We don't share this opinion. In a sound relationship between nations or blocs of nations, many aspects play a role including human rights. Since 1991 human rights has become an integral part of the EU foreign policy. In the last EU summit in Madrid, for the first time a paragraph on East Timor was included. We think that this Common Position on East Timor should be discussed in the Bangkok Summit.

At the same time we are very worried about the policies of certain European governments. The export of arms equipment to Indonesia from countries like UK, Germany, Holland, Spain and France is verry worrying indeed. We strongly believe, until a proper international settlement has been reached on the matter of East Timor, an arms embargo towards Indonesia is the only proper policy. In this last three days we have been discussing the shameful attitude of some European governments.

We hope you share our concerns and we wish you all a successfull conference.

The participants of the International Conference
"Indonesian Youth Solidarity, Hope for East Timor"
organised by Oporto University,
Lisbon 22-24 Febr. 1996